



Family History Research in Greece

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To
my parents
who taught me to love
my family and my ancestors

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INTRODUCTION

This manual was designed to assist those who are seeking information about their ancestors who lived in Greece. It was written in a very simple way for two reasons: first, that even those who have never researched their ancestors will be able to follow the instructions and suggestions that are given here, and benefit from them; second, that for some of the users of this publication the English language may not be their mother's language.

In the following pages you will find information about Family History – Genealogy – and how to search for your ancestors. You will find basic information about the Greek language, and how to overcome problems that may arise by not knowing the language. You will also find basics about the **history** of Greece focusing on events that may affect your researching your ancestors.

A Glossary is included which will give the **interpretation of certain words**, so there will be no question in anyone's mind about the meaning of the words used in this publication.

In chapter 2, "Sources for Genealogical Research," you will see what types of **records** you can expect to find, where to look for them, and how to search them even when you do not know the Greek language. You can also find in this book information about the **Family History Library** and **other Libraries**, about the **Internet**, about **books** and how to locate books that contain information you need.

The **administrative structure** of Greece plays a **most significant** role in your research; therefore chapter 4 discusses extensively this subject, and provides a map where you can see clearly the regions and counties of Greece. Since the **civil records** were kept by the Mayor/Community President of each town, you need to know to which municipality, which district, and county the town belonged at the time your ancestors lived there, as well as the municipality and town to which the records are stored today. You also need to know to which diocese the town belonged, since **church records** (old church records) can be found in dioceses, not in parishes. The **district** is very important for identifying Greek places because two or more towns with the same name may be in the same county. For example in the county Euvoias [Ευβοίας] there are three towns named *Pyrgos*; one is in the district *Halkidos*, one is in the district *Istiaias*, and one in the district *Kranaias*.

In this book you will also find suggestions on how to organize your research, how to do it by **mail**, including **form letters** in Greek with their English translation, or how to do your research by visiting Greece. Your relationships with your **relatives** who live in Greece, and basics about the **history** of Greece, the **language**, Greek **numbers**, names of **months** and of **weeks**, **addresses** of dioceses, and many more materials that will be useful for your research are included in this publication.





Passing on the Greek heritage to the new generation
(the author with her granddaughter Natalie A. Wolhuis)